

SPRINGFIELD NEWS (MA)
24 NOVEMBER 1980

CIA Returns To Seek Recruits On Campus

By FRANK FAULKNER

AMHERST — The Central Intelligence Agency has been recruiting students at the University of Massachusetts, a major change from the low profile it kept during the decade of anti-war protests and an indication that the agency may be making a public comeback.

CIA recruiters were here Thursday and Friday to attract students interested in "research, analysis and collection of foreign intelligence" and who had UMass training in electrical engineering, computer science, economics and language training in Slavic, Asian or Middle Eastern studies.

Arthur Hilson, the UMass director of placement who schedules recruitment interviews, said the CIA began recruiting here during the 1960s, but bypassed the campus due to student protests.

Bush May Help

U.S. Rep. Edward P. Boland, D-Springfield, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, which has purse string control over the spy agency, has said that having former CIA director George Bush as the new administration's "point man" may help the agency overcome many of its difficulties with restrictive legislation.

Reagan's transition team has indicated that the new CIA director may be William J. Casey, who helped direct American intelligence operations behind German lines late in World War II.

Boland termed Casey, "an excellent administrator who has a well-qualified background in intelligence." The Congressman said he knew him when Casey was a member of the Nixon and Ford administrations.

As Reagan's friend and presidential campaign manager, Casey was considered a likely candidate for secretary of state, but George Shultz and Alexander M. Haig, president of United Technologies Corp. in Hartford, Conn., have been named as strong possibilities for the State Department helm.

Haig a Possibility

Haig has also been mentioned for the CIA post, and he is a possible candidate for secretary of defense, but the retired general would require a Congressional waiver from legislation which prevents officers from appointment to the Pentagon post within 10 years of retirement.

United Press International, citing transition sources, has dropped Haig from its list of top choices, which includes and has listed George Shultz as the likely secretary of state and Casey as potential director of the CIA.

Casey is chairman of Reagan's transition team, known as the "kitchen cabinet," which has been advising the president-elect, who is expected to announce his cabinet choices Dec. 1.

World War II Service

During World War II, Casey headed the German intelligence branch in the Office of Strategic Services. According to R. Harris Smith, author of "OSS: the Secret History of America's first Central Intelligence Agency," published in 1972, Casey was chief of the Strategic Intelligence Branch which had control of covert operations in Germany and by the spring of 1945 had parachuted more than 150 agents behind Nazi lines to disrupt rail centers and report on troop movements.

"As an emergency measure, the new SI Branch chief, a wealthy 32-year-old tax lawyer, William Casey, was given overall operational control of German projects," Smith wrote. "He coordinated the effort to send Polish, Belgian, and French agents to the major crossroad cities of Germany. The tactical missions were launched by Army units at the front. The deep penetrations of agents parachuted far behind the lines were flown from Namur in Belgium or from the OSS detachment at Dijon in eastern France."

In 1969, Casey was chairman of a "National Citizens Committee" which purchased large newspaper advertisements throughout the country supporting the Nixon administration's Vietnam policy.

Chaired SEC

In March, 1971, former President Richard Nixon nominated Casey to the Securities and Exchange Commission and Casey became its chairman.

During the campaign, Casey advocated a more aggressive American intelligence operation and, in combination with Reagan's campaign rhetoric, caused some liberals to fear the new administration would unleash the CIA from some Congressional controls.

Boland said his House Intelligence Committee controls funding for covert operations and he did not expect major changes in the agency.

But the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research group in Washington, released a 97-page intelligence report Thursday advising the Reagan administration to make sweeping changes in the agency.

The report recommended separating clandestine operations from the CIA, hiring more and better trained agents, establishing competing sources of intelligence and altering laws which restrict CIA operations.